

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

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WALTER G. SMITH, EDITOR

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THE STAR IS UNMUZZLED AND INVITES LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE ON ANY QUESTION THAT INTERESTS THEM. THE PAPER IS CONDUCTED IN ITS OWN EDITORIAL ROOM AND NOT BY AN OUTSIDE COMMITTEE; AND IT KNOWS OF NO PUBLIC MATTER WHICH ITS READERS OR FRIENDS OR THE PEOPLE GENERALLY MAY NOT DISCUSS IN ITS COLUMNS WITH THE FREEDOM ACCORDED TO ITS OWN STAFF.

THE PUBLIC AND THE BANANAS.

When men like Wm. T. Brigham and E. V. Wilcox find scientific and practical cause to doubt that the banana stalk is a breeding-place of mosquitoes and when this view is held by observing people like Wm. R. Castle and Charles Phillips et al., the public at large is entitled, without hostile reflection on its good sense or patriotism, to protest at the grounds given for the banana-stalk crusade. These are significant witnesses. Dr. Brigham is in the first rank of American scientists; Dr. Wilcox is the chief of the United States Agricultural Experiment Station in Hawaii; Mr. Castle is a painstaking private investigator of the alleged mosquito and banana connection, and Mr. Phillips is a man of exceedingly level head who does not jump at conclusions. They are types. With them, in opposition to the off-hand banana crusade and questioning its scientific competence, are literally hundreds of common-sense Honoluluans who have searched their banana stalks, before, during and after rains, and found no mosquito wrigglers in them, and who ask for more investigation before the official maraud goes further. The most comfort the crusaders can get is in Mr. Fullaway's discovery of a few wrigglers in the stalks, hardly enough to count. But a few wrigglers no more prove a generic habit than an occasional toad under a rosebush proves that rosebushes are the natural homes of the toad family.

This investigation could be made in three hours by a competent committee who would strip bananas on wet ground and dry ground, in lowland and upland, and report the same day. If they found wrigglers in anything like a determinate quantity, the public, anxious to head off the yellow fever and end the mosquito pest, would make its sacrifice. If not, then the public would have ample cause to defend its property rights by process of law.

It is useless to cry down the testimony of the men we have named, and it is especially useless to swallow everything that comes along with a doctor's label. We have been humbugged over and over again by the views of doctrinaires and humbugged at large cost. We have now learned, after letting the book men have their way, \$3,000,000 worth, that we can get the plague infection out of a house by other means than fire; we have learned from the testimony of the vast arid land stretches of the West that houses do not require stable refuse to breed in, and we know, from the elaborate experiments made last year in New Jersey, that mosquitoes, far from isolating themselves at their breeding-place, travel far and wide. Yet we have been solemnly taken in by our bookmen on these points for years past, and only a few months ago we were denied beach-bathing on account of a cholera-affected taro patch far-away, which, as a Federal doctor afterwards testified in a lawsuit, did not visit beach-bathers with one chance in a million of getting the disease. We have been bedeviled by scientific faddists for twelve years, and now we appear to be in the hands of another set.

Will this destructive impulse stop with the cutting down of bananas? Will it extend to palms, porch-vines, shade trees? Will it stop, even if yellow fever does, before Honolulu is bereft of its arboreal charm? These are pretty serious questions, but the only answer so far given out is the pert assurance, through a muzzle, that "they have been discounted in advance."

MOSQUITO BREEDING PLACES.

An examination of three authorities on mosquitoes and yellow fever fails to find any mention made of the banana plant as a breeding place for mosquitoes. It would appear that if the banana plant affords the ideal place for breeding mosquitoes, as is claimed, that some specific mention of this plant would be made in the books consulted.

Goldberger in "Yellow Fever" says: "Larvae have been found in tin cans * * * and in some natural collections of water formed by leaves of certain tropical plants, such as the palm and century plant."

Giles on "Mosquitoes" says: "The presence of water is absolutely essential to the multiplication of mosquitoes, and further it is now fully recognized that it is not large bodies of water, such as marshes, lake and rivers that form their favorite nurseries, but small stagnant collections, such as pools and puddles of no great size. Further, these puddles and pools must be sufficiently permanent to persist for at least ten days." (The chapter from which the above is taken is devoted to the malaria mosquito, but doubtless the statements would apply in general to the stegomyia calopus.)

Munson on "Military Hygiene" (1901) says: "The removal of shrubbery adjacent to houses and rank vegetation" should be insisted upon in order to exterminate the mosquitoes. PLANTS OF RAPID GROWTH SHOULD BE CULTIVATED FOR THE ASSISTANCE THEY GIVE IN REMOVING THE MOISTURE FROM THE SOIL. For this purpose eucalyptus, the castor oil plant and sunflower plant are the most satisfactory, these not only drying the ground but being shunned by mosquitoes.

In this connection one should not forget Dr. Brigham's warning that by removing banana trees we take away a favorite abiding place of the lizards that feed on mosquitoes.

TO ADVERTISE NATIONAL PARKS.

A collection of photographs of scenes in the national parks of the United States is now being assembled by the Department of the Interior for exhibition in libraries and other public institutions throughout the country. The collection will be composed of large photographs, many of them hand-colored, or some of the remarkable views that have made our national parks famous all over the world, and it is believed the display will serve to stimulate interest in these places, as well as to greatly swell the annual number of tourists.

Among the views to be shown are those of the Great Falls and Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River, the geysers and Mammoth hot springs in Yellowstone National Park, the beautiful glaciers and mountain lakes in Glacier National Park, the wonderful cliff dwellings in the Mesa Verde National Park; the majestic sequoias, the largest trees in the world, in the Yosemite, General Grant and Sequoia National Parks; the great ice fields on Mount Rainier; the remarkable Crater Lake, once the caldera of an active volcano, and the impressive rock formations and waterfalls in the Yosemite National Park.

The attractive features of nearly every western state will be thus prominently brought to the attention of the tourist and vacation-taking public, with the result that travel to "See America First" should be greatly increased. The addition of a Kilauea Park would tend to bring the travel farther.

KEEFE AND FIELD LABOR.

Commissioner Keefe's sore spot still festers and he now means to ask Congress to interfere with the commissary system on the plantations by which, as he says, "the underpaid laborers of the islands are deprived of their meager earnings by overcharges for food stuffs." As the reports on this subject made at various times to the Japanese and Russian ambassadors and the Portuguese minister by their consuls and special agents, and to the United States government by former Commissioner Neill and by Dr. Victor S. Clark in his report to the Bureau of Labor are quite to the contrary, Congress will probably leave Keefe, as the Secretary of Commerce and Labor did, to stew in his own tobacco juice. The trouble with Keefe is that he came to Hawaii in the hope of making union labor capital in the fight against "the interests." This was

Uncle Walt The Poet Philosopher

That fellow fails to please or charm who's always viewing with alarm. Old Kicksaw hangs around our town, and wears a most depressing frown, and knocks on all our boosting schemes, and pours cold water on our dreams. "A boom is born, and then it dies," this most unpleasant old man cries, "and when it dies a lot of jays will get the cleaver, fifty ways." And still our one horse village grows, in spite of him and kindred foes, who lean against our walls of brick, and chew the rag and roar and kick. And all that poor old Kicksaw gains by all his misery and pains, is just a frost where'er he wends; in all our burg he has no friends. And that's as much as you will gain if you devote your heart and brain to blocking wheels that ought to turn, and quenching fires that ought to burn. The knocker has a clammy time; the folks regard him as a crime; they plug their ears to miss his cries, and hold a picnic when he dies.

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WALT MASON.

clear by the talk, in vino veritas, which he made to the McCarthy dinner-givers at San Francisco on his return from here, and it fairly accounts for the pigeon-holing his report got from his department. An appeal from him to Congress over his chief's head has a flavor of insubordination but that won't matter much for the reason that Keefe doesn't. The truth about field labor on these islands is all that is needed at any time to keep Washington from interfering with the system, and that truth is always available at the Department and at the legations which look after the welfare of their subjects here.

Delegate Kulio, on leaving, assured the public that he "would watch the sugar tariff," whereupon the planters breathed freely, but his program stopped there and no one has an inkling of what he means to do about bills of local concern, except the Captain Sam relief measure. The Kilauea National Park bill is important, the Fairchild land bill is most important, there is a revenue cutter measure and a lot more. A site controversy, upon which Kulio is said to have changed his mind, is pending. Not a sign has appeared of any intent to have this legislation advanced. "Watching the sugar tariff," attacking the Governor and seeking Federal aid for Sam, is all the business set down in the prospectus.

Poor old deserted Mediterranean fly!

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

W. L. HOWARD—The wait of the waiter is abroad in the land.

A. H. FORD—Last night's gathering at the University Club shows how the Hands-Around Club is making headway.

SIR ALBERT GOUND—"White Australia" is the slogan in our country, and we intend to build up the nation on those lines.

PERCY HUNTER—I can only say once more that Honolulu feels like home to me, and that I am glad to visit this city at all times.

LORRIN ANDREWS—I don't approve of that new gutter that has just been put on the postoffice. I'm afraid it will breed mosquitoes that will fly up to my office and bite me.

WM. A. KAHIMAI—My bananas are part of my living. If the inspectors come to cut them down there will be something doing. My brother and my son are standing guard with me.

JOS. M. LITTLE—While up Pali looking at the water to be taken over for the city supply, I found millions of mosquitoes in the tall grass. They breed in horse and cow tracks in the swampy land along the water course.

RAY H. REEDY—I was much impressed with the letter of Prof. Brigham. He has been here many years and he is a student. You can hear the little lizards—which, as he says, frequent the banana trees—snapping up the mosquitoes on the window screens at night.

E. D. TENNEY—I've been having day mosquitoes around my house for years and never could find their breeding place. But a day or two ago one of the boys found a hole in an alga-rota tree near the house which was simply swarming with wrigglers. Now I have had all the holes filled up with cement and hope I am rid of the pest.

A. L. C. ATKINSON—Your late Washington note to the effect that Hawaii would have only two delegates in the Republican national convention was based on the old rules. Those adopted at the last convention give Hawaii six delegates. This can only be changed by the convention. A special territorial convention will be called, probably for June, to elect the delegates.

REV. DR. SCUDDER—Former Senator Charles H. Dickey deserves the

gratitude of every lover of mountain tramping in this community for the latest evidence of the loyal public spirit which has always characterized him. About a month ago he decided to cut out and partly relocate the well-known Maunua Valley trail from Castle Home up to the Tantalus road, which had become very thickly overgrown. At his own expense he has completed the job and has given all lovers of outdoors by far the shortest and easiest footpath up to the mountains which form our city's rarest attraction and greatest beauty. Why not hereafter dub this excellent path "the Dickey trail?"

L. H. WOLFF—The storm sewers of the city are breeding mosquitoes by the million. There is always standing water in them, and one that I examined this morning near Pensacola and Beretania streets was literally alive with wrigglers. They were as plentiful as maggots in the carcass of a dead cow, and I never saw the like. A similar condition prevails all over town, and the storm sewers need immediate attention if the mosquito is to be abolished. It seems to me that this is one of the things which should be attended to by the authorities first of all. An inspector can squirt some oil in the traps, but the first shower washes it away, and as the outlet is higher than the bottom of the trap, standing water is bound to remain.

HARRY T. MILLS—According to a written communication from the Board of Health to the Kaimuki Improvement Club, the Citizens' Committee, styling itself Civic Sanitation Committee, has had delegated to it "all matters pertaining to this campaign." It is, at present, a serious question if the board can delegate its powers to this committee. The Supreme Court has held (in McCandless vs. Marston Campbell, Superintendent of Public Works), that an official cannot do so, and that our board is but an official, in several ways, is patent. It is likely that the indiscriminate cutting and slashing by the agents of the committee may be really wrong. Banana plants may breed mosquitoes in the wet valleys, but they do not afford hatchingeries in the dry sections. Metaphorically speaking, banana fiber may hang the crusaders.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

AN AUSTRIAN'S VIEWS.

Editor Star: When they cut down the banana trees there will be just as many mosquitoes as ever. If they want to find where mosquitoes breed let them go into the rough lands on the city outskirts, where they will see cavities in rocks holding water that is swarming with larvae.

I cannot do without my bananas. If I do not have them at every meal I become sick. In Austria, where I came from, they got rid of mosquitoes without destroying plants. The government furnished a chemical to everybody, which was laid on burning charcoal in a pot. This produced acrid fumes that gave people a head-

cultivate their home plots in peace and make a clean living their own way, the only thing left is to sell out and leave the country. That's what I shall do if my banana patch is destroyed by the authorities—leave Honolulu and go to Oakland, where I have relatives. First, however, I intend to resist the inspectors by refusing them permission to cut my bananas. I am ready to go into court if they take me.

My brother-in-law, an American, living at Kapahulu, is a cripple, who makes his living chiefly in raising bananas and poultry. To cut down his banana trees would be an act of extreme cruelty.

W. M. MAKET.

JUST A SOB.

Oh! I was a farmer small, and green, And I heard a siren's song: "Sail down to our emerald islands of balm— Bring all of your family along.

"You can get rich quick in this Paradise—

It is peopled with angels of light, And the fruits and flowers in our tropical bowers, Are never affected by blight."

I wasn't from "Pike," so I didn't ask To be shown a guarantee; Sold the old farm and came merrily down, The baby, Matilda and me.

And the place we bought was a barren plain, But the baby grew, and he Kind of liked to see things shady and cool, And so did Matilda and me.

Say! we just had loads of bananas and figs, Papayas, grapes and a Vi, And we'd sit and sing in the scented shades, The baby, Matilda and me.

"Oh, that were Paradise enow," As the Persian poet sang; But the devil entered our Paradise With a venomous, sharpened fang.

Instead of a serpent he came as a rat, And they called him "bubonic plague;" So they burnt our home and they drove us out, And—we starved—but we didn't beg.

Then we planted again the arid plain And soon the beautiful earth Brought forth from the blackened, fire-swept waste, A younger, beautiful birth.

When the sweet winds whispered among the trees, And the ringdove cooed and the humming bee Filled the air with minstrelsy, 'Twas pleasant for baby, Matilda and me.

Then a zebra-striped mosquito fiend Voiced a jarring note in our little choir, And the yellow jacks got out their axe And left but little more than the fire.

Well, after that our finish came, For a Mediterranean fly Got into our fruit and the axmen came, And the trees all rotting lie.

Then the cholera devil got into our swine, And inspectors slaughtered them all— I'm afraid to get sick, I'm scared when I'm well, 'Taint safe to be living at all.

There's beetles and bugs for our garden truck, Microbes by the standard peck, And a million things with as many stings,

Are waiting for me, by heck!

I'm sick of the glare from the barren plains, Where the fierce sun sizzles my eyes; And it's us for the next boat sailing away.

From this curried old "Paradise," HILARY NEIL WESTON.

SUGAR CANE AND BANANAS.

Editor Star: I wonder if it ever struck the casual thinker that if the poor people were the owners of the sugar cane, it would be the destruction of sugar cane now instead of the banana trees? Sugar cane is unquestionably the greatest mosquito breeder in the Territory and, this from one who has been there more than once, there are more mosquitoes on a plantation than anywhere else in the islands, and this is natural. Take the irrigated plantations, for instance. Is there not always standing water in the little rivers between the cane lines? Anyone knows there is.

It would go hard with the man that tried to cut down my banana trees, if the writer owned and depended for a living on a banana plantation. The very nature of sugar cane must necessarily make it the greatest mosquito breeder in the country. No one can deny this who has seen cane and bananas.

The whole trouble is that the town has lost its noodle for a while and wants to destroy valuable property in its mad desire to destroy the mosquito. Let's take a breath and look around a little before we cut up things so slashingly.

Take the taro patches. Why should at the exposed cesspools, the standing water under houses and such. That is the most serious menace. Destroy these disease-spreading cesspools and put in sewers. Sewers is what the town needs more than anything else. The writer knows of a cesspool that has been opened and sometimes closed for the last two months. What about the air from this cesspool, to say nothing of the mosquitoes coming from it?

Take the taro patches. Why should they be destroyed any more than the cane? The water is drained off from the patches much sooner than it is from the cane. It's the same old, old story: "God help the rich, the poor can take care of themselves."

The writer knows of two rich men's banana trees that have not been destroyed and are not going to be. "It's a poor rule that don't work both ways, and if you are going to destroy the means of livelihood of the poor or small man, then dig up your sugar cane, Mr. Sugar Baron, and call it quits."

J. A. COMBS.

WHAT CURES ECZEMA.

We have had so many inquiries lately regarding Eczema and other skin diseases, that we are glad to make our answer public. After careful investigation we have found that a simple wash of Oil of Wintergreen, as compounded in D. D. D., can be relied upon. We would not make this statement to our anxious friends and neighbors unless we were sure of it—and although there are many so-called Eczema remedies sold, we ourselves unhesitatingly recommend D. D. D. Prescription.

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